

Appln No. Unassigned
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An implant for the treatment of bone fractures, ~~in particular of proximal humerus fractures,~~ ~~having~~ comprising a main plate (13) fixable to the bone (11) and at least one outrigger (15) which ~~can be~~ is capable of being connected to the main plate (13) via at least one flexible connection element (17) such that the outrigger (15) can be fixed to the bone (11) spatially offset to the main plate (13).

2. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the outrigger (15) is made in plate shape.

3. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with claim 1 ~~or claim 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the outrigger (15) is ~~made~~ flexible and ~~can in particular be~~ capable of being brought into a respectively required spatial shape by bending.

4. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) is capable of being ~~can be~~ cut to the [a] respectively required shape and size.

5. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1,

wherein the outrigger (15) has a plurality of passages for the reception of fastening elements (19), ~~in particular of bone screws.~~

6. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) is formed as a perforated plate.

7. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) is made in mesh-like or grid-like shape.

8. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) includes a plurality of ring sections (28) connected to one another directly or by webs (21) and each bounding a passage.

9. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) is made in one piece with the connection element (17).

10. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) ~~in particular~~ has eyelet-like or ring-like fastening sections (25) for ~~the coupling~~ being connected to the connection element (17).

11. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1,

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wherein the spatial offset between the main plate (13) and the outrigger (15) can be individually set by the connection element (17).

12. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection element (17) can be fixed at different positions to the main plate (13) and/or to the outrigger (15).

13. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the main plate (13) has at least one passage (27) for the guiding through of the connection element (17).

14. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the passage (27) extends substantially parallel to the plane defined by the main plate (13).

15. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection element (17) has an elongate shape.

16. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection element (17) is bendable.

17. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection element (17) is a wire or a thread.

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18. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection element (17) can be ~~coupled~~ connected to the main plate (13) and/or to the outrigger (15) by tying, hooking and or latching.

19. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least two connection elements (17) respectively led through at least one passage (27) of the main plate (13) can be connected to one another at the side of the main plate (13) remote from the outrigger (15), in particular by knotting or twisting their free ends together.

20. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) and/or the connection element (17) is/are made of metal, e.g. titanium, or of plastic.

21. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the main plate (13) and/or the outrigger (15) has/have at least one hook-like or claw-like continuation (29).

22. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein different implant configurations of the main plate (13) and of the outrigger (15) connected to the main plate (13) can be established which are symmetrical ~~with respect to the main plate (13) and in particular~~ with respect to a longitudinal axis of the main plate (13).

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23. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) and the connection element (17) are made separately and are connected so firmly to one another that the outrigger (15) and the connection element (17) can be handled as one unit during an operation.

24. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the outrigger (15) and the connection element (17) are unreleasably connected to one another, ~~in particular by welding.~~

25. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the main plate (13) and the outrigger (15) are connected to one another at one side via the connection element (17).

26. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) is made in plate shape and has a smaller thickness than the main plate (13), ~~with in particular the thickness of the outrigger (15) amounting to less than half the thickness of the main plate (13).~~

27. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) can be deformed without tools during an operation.

28. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1,

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wherein the outrigger (15) has a smaller base area than the main plate (13).

29. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) has a base shape sufficiently large for all common fractures of a certain bone and can be cut to the required shape and size for matching to a respective bone fracture to be treated.

30. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger (15) is provided with at least five passages to receive fastening elements (19).

31. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the outrigger consists of a bioabsorbable material, ~~in particular of a polymer.~~

32. (Currently amended) An implant in accordance with claim 31, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bioabsorbable material is plastically deformable at temperatures between 50 and 90°C, ~~in particular after a bath in an appropriately warm salt solution.~~

33. (Currently amended) An implant system for the treatment of bone fractures, ~~in particular of proximal humerus fractures, having~~ comprising at least one main plate (13) fixable to the bone ~~(11,)~~ (11), at least one outrigger (15) and a set of flexible connection elements (17) via which the

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outrigger (15) can be connected to the main plate (13) such that the outrigger (15) can be fixed to the bone (11) spatially offset to the main plate (13), with the connection elements (17) being prefabricated ready for use and differing from one another with respect to shape, size and/or length.

34. (Currently amended) An implant system in accordance with claim 33, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the connection elements (17) has a U shape and at least one respective pair of passages (27, 139), ~~in particular provided in the form of bores,~~ is made for a connection element (17) both in the outrigger (15) and in the main plate (13) and their spacing corresponds to that of the U limbs of the connection element (17).